

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02149 181509Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W

-----190406Z 063181 /23

R 181431Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 636

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SW

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: STILL UP IN THE AIR

REF: STOCKHOLM 2078

1. SWEDEN'S DRAWN OUT LABOR CRISIS CONTINUES TO SPUTTER AS UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS HESITATE ON EDGE OF LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL CONFLICT. AFTER THREE DAYS OF MARATHON TALKS IN A TENSE ATMOSPHERE, LO ANNOUNCED AT NOON TODAY (MAY 18) THAT IT IS PUTTING OFF ITS ALREADY ONCE POSTPONED STRIKE DEADLINE UNTIL MAY 25. HOWEVER, LO PRESIDENT GUNNAR NILSSON LATER PREDICTED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT SAF WILL GIVE ONE WEEK NOTICE OF A LOCKOUT TODAY AGAINST PTK WHICH IS BOUND TO AFFECT LO MEMBERS. A SAF MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHEN RESULTS WILL BE MADE KNOWN. TOMORROW IS A LEGAL HOLIDAY WHICH MOST SWEDES WILL STRETCH INTO A LONG WEEKEND. CHANCES ARE THAT NEGOTIATORS WILL ALSO TAKE TIME OUT TO RECHARGE THEIR BATTERIES. IN ANY CASE, A FEW MORE DAYS HAVE BEEN

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MADE AVAILABLE TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT.

2. PRINCIPAL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES STILL CENTER ON PTK DEMANDS FOR TOTAL COMPENSATION OF WAGE DRIFT IN BLUE-COLLAR SECTOR AND HIGHER MINIMUMS FOR LOW-INCOME EMPLOYEES. IN ITS LAST STATEMENT, SAF REFUSED TO GIVE ANY GROUND ON THESE ISSUES AND FURTHER STOKED THE FIRES

BY THREATENING TO LOCK OUT 400,000 PTK MEMBERS UNLESS PTK'S LIMITED STRIKE AND OVERTIME BAN IS ENDED. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT PTK SHUTDOWN OF LARGE WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR, DAGAB, HAS LEFT MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TO ROT IN WAREHOUSES IN STOCKHOLM, GOTEBOG AND HELSINGBORG.

3. COMMENT: PTK AND SAF ARE PLAYING TOUGH BUT DANGEROUS GAME. STRONG PERSONALITIES OF PTK LEADER INGVAR SEREGARD AND SAF CHAIRMAN CURT NICOLIN, BOTH OF WHOM CLAIM TO BE FIGHTING FOR PRINCIPLES, ARE SAID TO BE MAJOR ROADBLOCKS IN WAY OF A SETTLEMENT. LO HAS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT IT IS PREPARED TO SIGN, BUT IT IS CAUGHT HELPLESSLY BETWEEN BATTLING JUNIOR PARTNER AND EMPLOYER CAMP. UNLESS ONE SIDE GIVES GROUND SOON, SITUATION COULD EASILY PYRAMID INTO GENERAL STRIKE WITHOUT ANYONE WANTING IT TO HAPPEN.  
PERRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, PROGRESS REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, LABOR STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT, CONTRACTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2462126  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: STILL UP IN THE AIR  
**TAGS:** ELAB, SW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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